

October 12, 2006 Update

Update for the Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program Rulemaking (9 A.A.C. 4, Article 5)

The Department is amending the rules in 9 A.A.C. 4, Article 5, to clarify reporting requirements for the Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program, specify information the Department may collect and how, improve organization, and address HIPAA issues that have arisen.

To keep interested persons informed about the rulemaking, the Department has established a Web Page for the rulemaking through the Office of Administrative Rules. The Web Page will contain a copy of draft rules, periodic updates on the progress of the rulemaking, and other information that may be of interest. Stakeholders are asked to submit any comments about the rulemaking to Ruthann Smejkal, Rules Analyst for the Department, by e-mail at smejkar@azdhs.gov, by phone at 602-364-3959, or by fax at 602-364-1150.

The Department is also establishing a Rules Committee to provide input to the Department on the rulemaking for the Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program. The Rules Committee will consist of individuals representing different groups that may be affected by the rulemaking. Members of the Rules Committee will be asked to bring issues and concerns from the groups they represent to Rules Committee meetings and to share information discussed at the meetings with the groups they represent. Once the Rules Committee members are selected, their names will be available on the Web Page for the Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program.

The Department anticipates holding the first meeting of the Rules Committee in late October or early November. It is anticipated that there may be 3 to 5 meetings, no more than 2 per month over the next few months.

A copy of the draft rules will be on the Web Page for the Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program prior to the first Rules Committee meeting. The Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program staff and staff from the Office of Administrative Rules will continue to meet to develop and revise draft rules. Between Rules Committee meetings, they will be meeting to incorporate changes that result from the Rules Committee meetings, in preparation for bringing a new draft to the next Rules Committee meeting. New drafts will also be posted on the Web Page.